Appl. No. 10/045,277
Amdt. dated 09/14/2005
Reply to Office Action of 06/14/2005

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph that starts on page 10, line 26 and ends on page 11, line 7 with the following paragraph.

Fig. 5 is a cross-reference table that may be used by the invention. The table is organized into sharable devices and the partitions that may share them and non-sharable devices. Alternatively, each device may have a profile. In the profile it may be indicated whether the device is a sharable device or not. If the device is a sharable device, the partitions that may share the device may be identified. Another method may be to include each sharable device as a pseudo-device into the partitions that may ~~be used~~ use the device. Each pseudo-device may be listed as a resource in each partition that is set up to share the device. Any method that may be used to identify the sharable devices and the partitions that may use them is well within the scope of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 8 - 26 with the following paragraph.

As in the manual process, the HMC will be used to switch a sharable device from one partition to another. The HMC is a control node that is responsible for setting up and maintaining partitions. When an application program requires access to a device that is not within the same partition as the application program, the operating system

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running on that partition causes an access request to be sent to the HMC on behalf of the application program. The request will contain the identification of the partition as well as the identification of the device needed. The HMC will then consult the table to determine whether the partition is allowed to have access to the device. If so, the HMC will next determine whether the device is currently in use by another partition. If the device is not currently in use by another partition, the HMC will assign the device to the requesting partition. After the application program has finished using the device, it needs to notify the HMC so that the device may be reassigned to another partition when needed.

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